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U.S. AND MEXICO REACH SPECIAL COORDINATION PROCEDURE ARRANGEMENT CONCERNING THE USE OF FREQUENCIES IN THE 806-824/851-869 MHz BANDS

The Federal Communications Commission and the Mexican Comision Federal de Telecomunicaciones (COFETEL) have signed a Special Coordination Procedure for the use of Certain Frequencies in the Bands 806-824 MHz and 851-869 MHz for Land Mobile Services (SCP). This arrangement permits special coordination of operations subject to the existing Protocol Concerning the Use of the 806-824/851-869 and 896-901/935-940 MHz Bands for Land Mobile Services along the Common Border (Protocol). The SCP serves the public interest by providing additional flexibility for licensees and promoting efficient spectrum use in border areas.

The Protocol designates certain frequencies in the border area for primary use by either the United States or Mexico and states that frequencies allotted for primary use by one country may also be used on a secondary basis by the other country provided that a power flux density (PFD) limit at the border is met. The SCP recognizes that licensees on either side of the border may enter into business arrangements that permit special operations. Under the SCP, each agency may authorize licensees to operate on frequencies allotted on a primary basis to the other country, using the PFD levels required for the operation of its services. To operate pursuant to the SCP licensees must: (1) have their names and the specific frequencies involved added to the SCP annex; (2) file a copy of the business arrangement with their respective agencies; and (3) reach an operating agreement for each proposed station before beginning operations. Licensees may only use the SCP to promote efficient operation of their own systems and may not offer service in the other country.

This arrangement was reached as part of an on-going Commission effort to negotiate sharing agreements with Canada and Mexico that will promote efficient spectrum use in border areas. The initial SCP annex covers operations on specified frequencies by the U.S. licensees Nextel of California, Inc. and Nextel License Holdings 2, Inc. and by the Mexican concessionaires Servicios de Radiocomunicacion Movil de Mexico, S.A. de C.V., and Sistemas de Comunicaciones Troncales, S. A. de C.V. Additional licensees and frequencies may be added to the SCP annex upon the request of interested parties and approval by both agencies.

The full text of the Arrangement has been placed on file at the International Bureau Reference Room CY-A257, located on the Courtyard level of 445 12th St. S.W., Washington, D.C. Copies are also available from the International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800 and can be downloaded from the FCC's International Bureau internet site at http://www.fcc.gov/ib/pnd/agree.

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